

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 6311.0

NOON 28 FEBRUARY 1979

WAGE RATES INDEXES, DECEMBER 1978 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Joe Christensen on Canberra 526576 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

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MAIN FEATURES

- In December 1978 weighted average minimum weekly wage rates increased by \$5.88 (3.8 per cent) for adult males and \$5.63 (3.9 per cent) for adult females.
- Indexation decisions affecting Federal and State awards accounted for almost all of these increases.
- In the year ended December 1978 the adult male wage rate index rose by 7.4 percent, 89 percent of the rise being attributable to indexation increases. For adult females the corresponding figures were 7.1 per cent and 97 per cent.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More information on these statistics of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates* (6312.0) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. The indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries; those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are therefore excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification

of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for the latest twelve months shown are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

4. For adult males the weekly wage rates exclude rural industry; in addition the hourly rates exclude shipping and stevedoring, for which data to compute hourly wages are not available. The weekly and hourly wage rates for adult females exclude rural industry, mining and quarrying and building and construction.

5. The annual changes shown in Tables 1, 2 and 4 measure the percentage change from the same month for the previous year. The percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or less than half the final digit shown
- (where a line is drawn across a column between two consecutive figures) break in continuity of series.

TABLE 1. WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of —	Adult males					Adult females				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (a)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (a)	Wage rates \$	Annual change %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (a)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (a)
1977 —										
November	146.91	8.6	520.2	367.02	518.8	136.82	8.8	687.2	344.88	687.4
December	149.08	10.2	527.9	372.44	526.4	138.85	10.4	697.4	350.00	697.6
1978 —										
January	149.15	10.2	528.1	372.62	526.7	138.91	10.4	697.8	350.16	697.9
February	151.37	11.6	536.0	378.16	534.5	140.96	11.8	708.1	355.33	708.3
March	151.38	7.3	536.0	378.19	534.5	140.96	7.1	708.1	355.33	708.3
April	151.36	7.1	535.9	378.13	534.5	140.98	7.1	708.1	355.37	708.3
May	151.35	5.1	535.9	378.12	534.4	140.98	5.1	708.2	355.38	708.3
June	153.26	6.5	542.7	382.90	541.2	142.79	6.5	717.2	359.93	717.4
July	153.28	6.5	542.7	382.93	541.2	142.80	6.5	717.3	359.97	717.5
August	153.29	4.5	542.8	382.97	541.3	142.80	4.4	717.3	359.97	717.5
September (b)	154.26	5.1	546.2	385.47	544.8	143.03	4.6	718.4	360.54	718.6
October (b)	154.28	5.0	546.3	385.50	544.9	143.04	4.6	718.5	360.58	718.7
November (b)	154.29	5.0	546.3	385.53	544.9	143.04	4.5	718.5	360.58	718.7
December (b)	160.17	7.4	567.1	400.21	565.7	148.67	7.1	746.8	374.76	747.0

(a) Base : Weighted average minimum wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (b) Includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1.

TABLE 2. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1978

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (a)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (b)(c)	220.78	155.28	198.33	151.68	158.33	170.10	198.78	7.2	703.9
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc. (c)	149.38	155.70	160.26	153.13	154.16	152.41	152.85	9.2	541.2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	145.98	146.95	149.36	145.01	150.18	141.97	146.62	7.0	519.2
Food, drink and tobacco (c)	155.82	156.67	159.20	150.61	159.54	154.72	156.51	7.3	554.2
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	153.17	145.34	158.06	145.04	148.61	144.50	150.83	6.6	534.1
Paper, printing, etc. (c)	155.52	164.24	173.28	161.39	166.74	155.32	160.91	7.1	569.8
Other manufacturing (c)	154.19	154.39	154.88	153.34	151.55	147.24	153.93	7.4	545.0
All manufacturing groups (c)	151.44	154.39	159.26	152.51	153.81	150.74	153.40	8.1	543.2
Building and construction (c)	176.01	173.44	161.14	167.99	165.46	158.34	170.29	6.2	603.0
Railway services (c)	144.66	139.27	162.67	144.86	136.62	145.52	147.31	6.5	521.6
Road and air transport (c)	162.40	153.36	152.78	154.08	157.46	156.04	157.45	7.3	557.5
Shipping and stevedoring (c)(d)	194.97	194.36	186.00	184.76	195.37	190.73	191.88	6.8	679.4
Communication	188.43	189.40	188.01	186.93	189.04	183.46	188.39	7.1	667.0
Wholesale and retail trade (c)	159.20	162.32	160.26	157.48	156.14	161.96	159.86	7.4	566.0
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	164.11	161.08	166.71	152.16	158.08	174.31	162.46	6.9	575.2
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	150.94	146.72	149.11	143.01	138.68	142.13	147.62	7.1	522.7
All industry groups (c)	161.33	158.91	163.46	156.96	157.30	158.14	160.17	7.4	567.1

(a) Base : Weighted average minimum weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (b) For mining, wage rates are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (c) Includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1. (d) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, engineers and other officers.

TABLE 3. HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1978

Weighted average minimum hourly rates payable and index numbers of hourly rates.

Industry group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
WAGE RATES (cents)							
Mining and quarrying (a)(b)	617.59	388.21	523.56	379.20	414.87	434.84	536.40
Manufacturing —							
Engineering, metals, vehicles etc. (b)	373.57	389.54	400.90	382.83	385.74	381.03	382.30
Textiles, clothing and footwear	364.96	367.37	373.41	362.53	375.45	354.91	366.56
Food, drink and tobacco (b)	390.09	391.67	398.00	376.53	398.85	386.80	391.45
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	382.92	363.36	395.15	362.59	371.52	361.25	377.07
Paper, printing, etc. (b)	388.79	411.19	433.20	403.47	425.27	388.30	402.80
Other manufacturing (b)	385.47	386.33	387.20	384.26	378.00	368.39	384.98
All manufacturing groups (b)	378.73	386.19	398.25	381.43	384.82	376.90	383.67
Building and construction (b)	440.02	433.59	402.85	419.97	413.65	395.84	425.73
Railway services (b)	361.65	348.53	406.67	362.15	341.55	363.79	368.36
Road and air transport (b)	405.99	383.40	381.95	385.19	393.65	390.09	393.61
Communication	493.63	494.85	491.23	494.98	493.93	480.61	493.32
Wholesale and retail trade (b)	398.01	405.80	400.64	393.71	390.35	404.90	399.65
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	418.35	413.74	421.81	387.87	399.41	442.56	413.90
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	377.35	366.80	372.79	357.53	346.70	355.33	369.06
All industry groups (b)	404.21	396.39	408.61	390.80	392.65	391.70	400.21
INDEX NUMBERS (c)							
Mining and quarrying (a)(b)	872.9	548.7	740.0	536.0	586.4	614.6	758.2
Manufacturing —							
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc. (b)	528.0	550.6	566.6	541.1	545.2	538.6	540.3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	515.8	519.3	527.8	512.4	530.7	501.6	518.1
Food, drink and tobacco (b)	551.4	553.6	562.5	532.2	563.7	546.7	553.3
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	541.2	513.6	558.5	512.5	525.1	510.6	533.0
Paper, printing, etc. (b)	549.5	581.2	612.3	570.3	601.1	548.8	569.3
Other manufacturing (b)	544.8	546.0	547.3	543.1	534.3	520.7	544.1
All manufacturing groups (b)	535.3	545.9	562.9	539.1	543.9	532.7	542.3
Building and construction (b)	621.9	612.8	569.4	593.6	584.7	559.5	601.7
Railway services (b)	511.2	492.6	574.8	511.9	482.8	514.2	520.6
Road and air transport (b)	573.8	541.9	539.9	544.4	556.4	551.4	556.3
Communication	697.7	699.4	694.3	699.6	698.1	679.3	697.3
Wholesale and retail trade (b)	562.6	573.6	566.3	556.5	551.7	572.3	564.9
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	591.3	584.8	596.2	548.2	564.5	625.5	585.0
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	533.4	518.4	526.9	505.3	490.0	502.2	521.6
All industry groups (b)	571.3	560.3	577.5	552.4	555.0	553.6	565.7

(a) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (b) Includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1. (c) Base : Weighted average minimum hourly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 4. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1978

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100)(a)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc. (b)	145.34	152.22	147.49	146.28	148.24	146.34	147.86	8.6	742.7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	140.62	139.60	140.12	142.24	141.72	136.79	140.13	6.9	703.9
Food, drink and tobacco	148.81	147.53	149.58	145.86	134.59	142.48	147.26	7.3	739.7
Other manufacturing (b)	144.87	147.72	148.60	143.77	143.84	139.61	145.95	7.2	733.1
All manufacturing groups (b)	143.58	143.84	144.78	144.53	141.32	140.02	143.71	7.3	721.8
Transport and communication	149.57	151.87	156.64	155.22	149.98	157.74	152.02	6.8	763.6
Wholesale and retail trade	156.33	160.74	157.48	156.00	153.77	148.65	157.21	6.8	789.7
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	155.80	155.46	153.51	150.91	150.13	153.69	154.62	6.8	776.7
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	145.54	142.52	140.84	138.94	132.21	136.52	142.48	7.1	715.7
All industry groups (b)	148.56	148.75	150.54	148.99	146.58	144.34	148.67	7.1	746.8

(a) Base : Weighted average minimum weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (b) Includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1.

TABLE 5. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ALL GROUPS

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

(\$)									
End of —	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES									
1977 —									
November	147.74	145.37	150.54	143.56	146.30	145.47	147.28	146.46	146.91
December	149.93	147.50	152.76	145.69	148.55	147.58	149.42	148.67	149.08
1978 —									
January	149.96	147.62	152.76	145.84	148.66	147.70	149.51	148.71	149.15
February	152.22	149.79	155.03	148.01	150.74	149.86	151.72	150.94	151.37
March	152.23	149.79	155.07	148.02	150.74	149.86	151.72	150.96	151.38
April	152.17	149.80	155.07	147.99	150.77	149.86	151.72	150.91	151.36
May	152.16	149.80	155.07	147.99	150.78	149.86	151.72	150.90	151.35
June	154.05	151.77	157.05	149.84	152.58	151.78	153.64	152.82	153.26
July	154.06	151.77	157.05	149.84	152.61	151.79	153.64	152.84	153.28
August	154.09	151.77	157.05	149.84	152.68	151.79	153.64	152.87	153.29
September (a)	155.21	153.00	157.29	151.05	153.17	152.26	155.34	152.96	154.26
October (a)	155.23	153.00	157.29	151.07	153.20	152.26	155.34	152.99	154.28
November (a)	155.26	153.00	157.29	151.08	153.21	152.26	155.34	153.01	154.29
December (a)	161.33	158.91	163.46	156.96	157.30	158.14	161.29	158.81	160.17
ADULT FEMALES									
1977 —									
November	136.68	136.92	138.68	137.01	134.83	132.90	130.00	142.73	136.82
December	138.71	138.97	140.76	139.06	136.64	134.91	131.94	144.84	138.85
1978 —									
January	138.78	138.97	140.76	139.06	137.29	134.91	131.94	144.96	138.91
February	140.84	141.03	142.86	141.13	139.10	136.93	133.91	147.08	140.96
March	140.84	141.03	142.86	141.13	139.10	136.93	133.91	147.08	140.96
April	140.84	141.03	142.86	141.13	139.37	136.93	133.91	147.11	140.98
May	140.84	141.03	142.86	141.13	139.43	136.93	133.91	147.12	140.98
June	142.65	142.84	144.71	142.96	141.03	138.73	135.65	148.98	142.79
July	142.65	142.84	144.71	142.96	141.31	138.73	135.65	149.01	142.80
August	142.65	142.84	144.71	142.96	141.31	138.73	135.65	149.01	142.80
September (a)	142.94	143.07	144.77	143.31	141.36	138.80	136.13	149.02	143.03
October (a)	142.94	143.07	144.77	143.31	141.64	138.80	136.13	149.04	143.04
November (a)	142.94	143.07	144.77	143.31	141.64	138.80	136.13	149.04	143.04
December (a)	148.56	148.75	150.54	148.99	146.58	144.34	141.55	154.85	148.67

(a) Includes supplementary payments in the Metal Industry Award, Part 1.

TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF WEEKLY WAGE RATES : WAGE RATES INDEXES, DECEMBER 1978 (a)

Weekly wage rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime) as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
ADULT MALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$) —	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 125.00	1.5	0.3	1.9	1.3	6.4	0.1	1.5
125.00 to 129.99	3.3	2.5	0.4	3.1	3.5	1.7	2.6
130.00 to 134.99	7.3	7.0	1.0	7.5	8.6	7.2	6.4
135.00 to 139.99	8.8	10.3	8.5	6.7	8.2	10.0	9.0
140.00 to 144.99	7.6	7.6	5.4	10.6	3.1	13.6	7.4
145.00 to 149.99	7.6	5.7	8.2	7.4	7.6	6.8	7.1
150.00 to 154.99	8.1	15.0	16.5	12.0	8.9	10.4	11.6
155.00 to 159.99	11.2	12.0	7.0	14.8	17.0	16.7	11.8
160.00 to 164.99	13.2	12.3	12.4	11.6	7.0	6.5	12.0
165.00 to 169.99	3.7	7.1	8.2	3.6	1.6	2.9	5.1
170.00 to 174.99	3.8	2.6	4.4	3.6	2.7	5.0	3.5
175.00 to 179.99	4.4	2.4	5.3	3.7	8.7	2.3	4.1
180.00 to 184.99	3.7	1.7	3.1	3.4	1.4	1.8	2.8
185.00 to 189.99	3.0	4.3	3.0	6.5	9.3	6.6	4.2
190.00 to 194.99	2.8	1.8	7.4	2.8	2.0	5.5	3.2
195.00 to 199.99	4.4	3.0	2.9	0.3	0.6	0.8	3.0
200.00 to 219.99	2.2	3.7	2.3	0.6	2.0	0.8	2.4
220.00 and over	3.6	0.9	2.3	0.7	1.6	1.4	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	161.33	158.91	163.46	156.96	157.30	158.14	160.17
Median (\$) (b)	158.60	155.99	160.70	155.40	155.20	155.00	157.00
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
State awards, etc.	1.2	—	2.4	2.4	1.5	0.4	1.3
All awards, etc.	0.5	—	1.8	0.7	1.3	0.1	0.6
ADULT FEMALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$) —	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 125.00	1.1	1.1	1.0	2.5	1.1	1.4	1.2
125.00 to 129.99	0.9	3.2	2.3	4.2	7.7	8.2	2.6
130.00 to 134.99	5.0	7.1	3.7	7.2	12.0	4.5	6.1
135.00 to 139.99	27.2	29.0	18.5	17.9	10.1	27.5	25.3
140.00 to 144.99	13.2	12.1	11.2	8.0	8.5	23.3	12.2
145.00 to 149.99	3.2	5.6	4.9	5.1	5.8	2.5	4.4
150.00 to 154.99	8.4	5.8	24.3	8.9	26.8	4.0	10.1
155.00 to 159.99	24.8	10.1	3.3	27.2	25.1	23.9	17.8
160.00 to 164.99	8.2	11.1	23.5	15.7	1.5	2.3	10.8
165.00 to 169.99	7.1	2.4	6.6	1.4	0.6	0.6	4.6
170.00 to 174.99	0.5	10.9	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.9	3.9
175.00 to 179.99	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.7
180.00 and over	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean)(\$)	148.56	148.75	150.54	148.99	146.58	144.34	148.67
Median (\$) (b)	149.20	141.10	151.84	154.77	151.80	140.70	148.40
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	0.5	1.8	—	1.0	—	—	1.0
State awards, etc.	0.4	—	1.5	1.2	—	2.8	0.5
All awards, etc.	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.1	—	1.4	0.7

(a) This table shows the distribution of weekly wage rates included in the wage rates indexes, the weighted averages and medians of the indexes, and the percentage of index weights for wage rates equal to the various minimum wages. Comparable figures for June 1978 may be found in the June 1978 issue of this statement. (b) The median divides a distribution into two equal groups, one group having rates equal to or above the median and the other having rates equal to or below it, each group having 50 per cent of the relevant weights.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0).